

**CHARTER FOR THE
COMMON STANDARDS WORKING GROUP OF THE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
AND FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR FOR SPACE TRANSPORTATION**

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this charter is to establish a Common Standards Working Group (CSWG) of the Air Force (AF) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation (AST). This charter describes the roles and responsibilities of the CSWG. The purpose of the CSWG is to develop and maintain common safety standards, as defined and described in this charter. The tangible benefits from the creation of common safety standards include a stable framework of safety requirements for the U.S. space launch industry and minimal administrative burdens for the government and the commercial sector. Another welcome by-product is the creation of a system of checks and balances between the two agencies.

II. SCOPE

This charter formally establishes the CSWG to implement the AF/FAA Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on Safety for Space Transportation and Range Activities dated Jan. 16, 2001, referred to, within this charter, as the AF/FAA Space Safety MOA, and related matters at the direction of the Senior Steering Group. This charter contains provisions for timely and efficient coordination between the two agencies as they exercise their roles and responsibilities as set forth in the AF/FAA Space Safety MOA, without altering or otherwise modifying the roles and responsibilities delineated by statute or national policy applicable to the FAA or AF.

III. CSWG OBJECTIVES

The CSWG will:

- A. Develop, document, and maintain common safety standards, as defined below, that provide a stable and efficient framework for the U.S. space launch industry,
- B. Promote consistency and technical rigor in the substance and application of common safety standards,
- C. Facilitate effective communication between the AF and the FAA such that both agencies are informed of issues that could result in potential changes in any common safety standard,
- D. Provide for periodic reviews and updates of common safety standards,
- E. Facilitate the exchange of launch and re-entry data relevant to common safety standards,
- F. Monitor decisions and analyze trends decisions regarding requests for relief from common launch safety requirements.

IV. THE CSWG COMPOSITION, ROLES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The CSWG will carry out the objectives of this charter. The CSWG is comprised of the following:

A. Senior Steering Group

The Senior Steering Group (SSG) provides senior executive leadership and guidance to the CSWG towards accomplishment of the objectives identified in this charter. The SSG will meet semi-annually, or more frequently as needed. The SSG is co-chaired by:

1. The Federal Aviation Administration Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation, (FAA/AST),
2. The Director of National Security Space Integration, Office of the Under Secretary of the Air Force (SAF/USI),
3. The Director of Space Operations and Integration, Headquarters United States Air Force (HQ USAF/XOS),
4. The Director of Air and Space Operations, Headquarters Air Force Space Command (HQ AFSPC/XO),

B. Co-Chairs.

The FAA and the AFSPC will each assign a co-chair. The co-chairs will be confirmed and approved by the SSG. The Co-Chairs will:

1. Manage the various sub-working groups and develop new sub-groups as necessary to implement this charter,
2. Chair CSWG meetings and other meetings as required,
3. Record minutes and document accomplishments of working group activities, as necessary, for CSWG meetings,
4. Represent the CSWG at external forums such as public meetings, Range User forums, etc.,
5. Attend SSG meetings and provide status reports on CSWG activities to the SSG, and
6. Approve additional CSWG members not identified in this charter.

C. Members:

Members of the CSWG will meet periodically as determined by the co-chairs. CSWG membership will consist of representatives of AF and FAA organizations that are responsible for development and implementation of launch and re-entry safety requirements, practices, activities, and policies as well as other agencies identified by the Co-Chairs. Members will include representatives from the following organizations:

1. FAA/AST
2. HQ AFSPC/SEC/XOR/DRF/LCZ

3. 14 AF/SE/A3
4. 45 SW/SE
5. 30 SW/SE
6. SMC/SE/CLM/RNR/EVE
7. HQ USAF/XOSR
8. SAF/USIX
9. AFSC/SES

D. Other Agency Participation.

The CSWG is a government-only forum. Commercial launch industry representatives will not be permitted to participate due to Department of Transportation policy regarding rulemaking. The following government agencies are invited to participate in the CSWG:

1. NASA/Q/RQ
2. NRO/OSL
3. MDA/QSS

V. DEFINITIONS

A. Common safety standards means requirements and practices employed by the FAA and AF to provide for public safety during launch and re-entry operations. The FAA requirements will be codified in FAA regulations through FAA rulemaking. At AFSPC ranges, the common safety standards will be implemented through AFSPC Range Safety documents. The current common safety standards are referenced below.

B. Launch means, in the context of this charter, to place or attempt to place a launch vehicle or re-entry vehicle and any payload from Earth in a suborbital or orbital trajectory, or otherwise in space, and includes activities involved in the preparation of a launch vehicle for flight at a launch site in the United States.

C. Public Safety means, in the context of this charter, the safety of the general public of the United States or foreign countries and/or their property (both on- and off-site); includes the safety of people and property that are not involved in supporting a launch along with those that may be within the boundary of a launch site

VI. REFERENCES

Code of Federal Regulations, 14 C.F.R., Chapter III
 Draft Second Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rule Making to the FAA 14 CFR
 Parts 413, 415, and 417, Licensing and Safety Requirements for Launch
 Memorandum of Agreement between Department of the Air Force and
 Federal Aviation Administration on Safety for Space Transportation
 and Range Activities dated 16 January 2001
 Draft Memorandum of Understanding between Air Force Space Command

and Federal Aviation Administration Office of the Associate Administrator
for Commercial Space Transportation for Resolving Requests for Relief from
Common Launch Safety Requirements
Draft Air Force Space Command Instruction 91-701, Range Safety
Program Policy and Requirements
Draft Air Force Space Command Manual 91-710, Range Safety User
Requirements Manual
Draft Air Force Space Command Handbook 91-711, Flight Safety Analysis
Methodology



PATRICIA GRACE SMITH, AST-1,
Federal Aviation Administration
Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation

5/17/04
DATE



FRANKLIN J. BLAISDELL, Maj Gen, USAF
Director, Space Operations and Integration
Deputy Chief of Staff, Air and Space Operations

5/25/04
DATE



C. ROBERT KEHLER, Maj Gen, USAF
Director, National Security Space Integration *Office*
Office of the Under Secretary of the Air Force

6/17/04
DATE



DOUGLAS M. FRASER, Maj Gen (S), USAF
Director, Air and Space Operations
Air Force Space Command

7/9/04
DATE